



The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

# Community officers doubled

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department now has twice as many police officers dedicated to working directly with neighborhoods.

Two Community Interaction Officers now are assigned to each of KCPD's six patrol divisions, which Chief Richard Smith laid out as one of his goals in the selection process for Chief. The second set started March 26. That makes for a dozen officers who are dedicated to working proactively to empower neighborhoods, resolve ongoing issues and prevent crime.

Historically, Community Interaction Officers (CIOs) at KCPD have helped facilitate communication between the Police Department and the residents of Kansas City. They encourage residents to be actively involved in anti-crime efforts and promote community support for the police department through

positive interaction and partnerships with the community. CIOs meet with members of the community on a regular basis to address specific community problems and plausible solutions.

But what about neighborhoods and residents who don't engage with police or each other?

"One thing we know for sure is that strong neighborhoods – those that are well organized and whose residents are engaged and look out for each other – have less crime," Chief Smith said.

So all 12 CIOs have been tasked with engaging and empowering neighborhoods that lack organization and involvement. They are partnering with the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods to help identify community leaders, implement crime prevention strategies and empower residents to improve their quality of life. Officer Jason Cooley, coordinator of the CIO

program, said CIOs will work with existing neighborhood anchors like schools, churches and businesses to find those potential leaders.

The new set of Community Interaction Officers is assigned to work from 1 to 9 p.m. This allows them to engage with people who may not have been involved before because they work during the day, Chief

Smith said. The new CIOs' shifts overlap with the existing CIOs so they can coordinate, but they're expanded into the evening to increase the opportunity for residents to work with police. Patrol division leaders chose the new, second-shift CIOs based on their experience and desire to build community relationships and help solve neighborhood problems.

They were implemented in late March because that's when the most recent class of Academy graduates completed their probationary period. Chief Smith said he did not want to pull existing officers off the streets.

The CIOs all will be trained in the proven crime prevention strategy of Crime Prevention Through

Environmental Design (CPTED). They will be ready to help residents and businesses create an environment that deters criminal activity.

Officer Cooley, himself a long-time CIO, cautioned that there will be a learning curve.

"This is a new approach with brand new people in positions who have to get trained up," he said. "It will take time to get them the information they need and introduced and engaged in the



**KCPD Community Interaction Officers are front row, left-right: Richard Marquez, Mikki Cassidy, Richard Jones, John Lozano and Holly Sticken. Back row: Andy Hamil, Aaron Whitehead, Robert Pavlovic, Mary McCall, Patrick Byrd, Greg Smith and CIO Coordinator Jason Cooley.**

Continued on p. 3

**Pgs. 2-3**

Compassionate detective  
New uniform trial  
Surprise for letter writer

**Pgs. 4-5**

Commander badge change  
Book honors late officer  
Academy revives run  
Officially Speaking  
Upcoming Events

**Pg. 6**

2018 Memorial Service  
Invitation



# Compassion helps victim rebuild life

A man shot his girlfriend in the face just after midnight March 15, 2018. He told everyone she'd shot herself and drove her to the hospital. Despite her life-threatening wound, when she got to the hospital, she repeatedly asked if her children were alright. Officers went back to the house and found four children there, ages 1 to 11. The woman's family soon arrived to take custody of them.

The victim survived but lost a great deal, including one of her eyes and some of her ability to communicate. She had to undergo extensive reconstructive surgery. Because of this, she lost a job she had just started. Detective Sarah Throckmorton was working the case and met with the woman on the day she was supposed to be released from the hospital, three weeks after the shooting.

Although her jaw was wired shut, the victim was able to communicate to Detective Throckmorton that although her family had helped her and her children get a new place to live, there would be nothing inside it. All of her belongings, furniture and housewares were either thrown out by her abuser or taken by his family.



**Domestic Violence Detective Sarah Throckmorton got a victim furniture and housewares after her abuser got rid of all her belongings.**

"In almost five years of being in the Domestic Violence Section, I don't believe we have had a victim lose everything they owned," Detective Throckmorton said.

On the way out of the hospital, Detective Throckmorton ran into a friend and told her about the difficult situation the victim was facing. She told her friend she was going to try to find the woman some furniture. Detective Throckmorton's friend said her daughter had just moved to a new home that was most-

ly furnished, so she had several items she no longer needed. They donated a twin bunk bed, king-size mattress set, coffee table, kitchen table and chairs, dishes, silverware and pots and pans.

A few items were still missing, so Detective Throckmorton reached out to friends on Facebook to see if anyone had any nice furniture or housewares they could donate.

"The outpouring was amazing," Detective Throckmorton said.

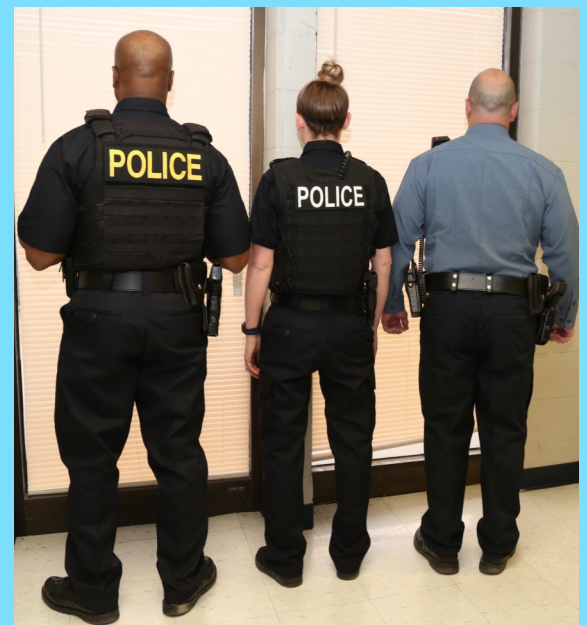
Friends donated a couch and loveseat, two recliners, a baby mattress and toys.

They also contributed \$200 to pay for a U-Haul to transport all the donations to the victim's new home. Detective Throckmorton and her husband, Officer Scott Throckmorton, paid for the U-Haul themselves and gave the \$200 to the victim. The Throckmortons, a few of their friends and the victim's family moved in all the furniture and housewares on April 13. A couple days later, the Throckmortons took the victim's children out to play with their own children at a trampoline play place and then out for ice cream.

## Officers evaluate different uniform options



Seventeen officers are testing out three uniforms starting April 16. The evaluation period runs for 18 weeks, allowing a six-week test for each of the three vendors' products. This allows for testing in various seasons and temperatures. The volunteer officers testing the uniforms are evaluating them on criteria such as ease of maintenance, (the current uniforms have to be dry-cleaned), comfort (like during the dog days of summer), styling durability, functionality and more. They will evaluate peer response, as well.





# Letter writer gets special surprise

**M**arvel Hodge is something of an institution in the Blue Hills neighborhood and at KCPD.

"If you've worked at Metro Patrol Division, you know Marvel Hodge," Major Diane Mozzicato said.

Ms. Hodge is a neighborhood advocate, a volunteer and a prolific letter writer. Sergeant Brad Lemon met her "many years ago" when he was a patrol sergeant at MPD. She had gathered several residents from her block to meet with command staff about the relentless drug activity and shootings on her street. A couple of murders had occurred. She had been sleeping in her bathtub for fear of getting shot in her house.

"For a woman of her age who lives by herself to put herself on front street like she did, it was very brave," Sergeant Lemon said.

Sergeant Lemon was charged with cleaning up Ms. Hodge's block. He and his crew got the primary offender in custody and closed every drug house on the street, returning peacefulness to the neighborhood. Ms. Hodge was very grateful, so the two have stayed in touch through the years.

Ms. Hodge has formed similar bonds with other officers and commanders with whom she's worked and likes to mail in notes of appreciation. When Chief Richard Smith took office, he noticed all the nice cards and letters she sent. Some mentioned Sergeant Lemon. So



**Blue Hills resident Marvel Hodge was speechless when Chief Smith presented her with personalized stationery, below right. Ms. Hodge frequently writes nice cards and letters to department members.**

Chief Smith asked Sergeant Lemon to bring Ms. Hodge by because he wanted to meet her. And he had a special surprise.

Public Relations Specialist Cathy Williams designed Ms. Hodge her very own stationery and printed the cards up for her. The Chief's Office pitched in to buy stamps. When Sgt. Lemon brought Ms. Hodge to the Chief's office on March 30, she brought several newspaper clippings with her. She reminisced with Sgt. Lemon, Major Mozzicato, Sergeant Scott Selock and the Chief about all KCPD had done for her. Then they presented her with the stationery. Ms. Hodge was moved to tears.

She already has put the cards to good use.

"I think I've already gotten three cards from her since we met (on March 30)," Sergeant Lemon said.



**CIOs, Continued from p. 1**

community, building their own networks."

Officer Cooley said the new CIOs also likely will work closely with the social workers now being assigned to all patrol divisions (see February 2018 Informant article).

"Before social workers, CIOs handled some of those kinds of problems," he said.

This approach has seen success elsewhere. The New York City Police Department implemented two Neighborhood Coordination Officers (very similar to KCPD's CIOs) in about 20 of their

precincts in 2015. They've continued to expand it city-wide. In 2017, New York City's overall crime rate was at its lowest level since 1951, and its 2017 homicides were the lowest in 70 years.

Chief Smith pointed out police are only part of the solution.

"The resident engagement piece is huge, and we cannot reduce crime and improve quality of life without it," he said. "If we were all neighborly, looked out for each other and reported crime, we'd have a much safer city."

# Commander badges change

KCPD Commander badges are taking a blast from the past to be standardized with badges worn by officers and sergeants.

Beginning May 1, all captains, majors, deputy chiefs and the chief will trade in their smaller, rounded, gold badges for a two-toned, platinum- and gold-colored badge shaped like those worn by line personnel. Commanders have the option to purchase their old badges.

It's a change Deputy Chief Karl Oakman and now-retired Major James Connelly have been pushing for since 2007.

"This badge is a stock badge," Deputy Chief Oakman said, pointing to his current badge.

"Security officers use it. Anyone can use it. The KCPD badge is trademarked."

Deputy Chief Oakman said commanders have been mistaken as private security officers or as being from another agency because of the small badge.

"In the current environment of police impersonations and terrorism, it is important for law enforcement agencies to have unique identification," he wrote in a memo requesting the change.

Although the Uniform and Standardization Committee approved the badge standardization in 2007, the recommendation languished. This year, it was approved and included in negotiations with Fraternal Order of Police Commanders Lodge 102. Cloth badges for coats and outer vests will be available later in the year.

All the badges also will be numbered. The current badges only have numbers for captains. While the captains will keep their current numbers on their new badges, majors and deputy chiefs will have numbers

associated with their tenure in rank as of January 1, 2018 (with No. 1 for the most-tenured). Chief Richard Smith will be issued No. 46 because he is KCPD's 46<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police.

During a meeting of the Kansas City Missouri Police Historical Society, members shared that KCPD has long had different-shaped badges for different ranks. A photo from 1895 shows some department members with apparent sergeant stripes on their sleeves wearing a different badge from the six-pointed stars everyone else was issued. But when the Department returned to state control in 1939 after a

corruption-filled period of "home rule," all badges were standardized. They featured the same, unique, eagle-topped shape officers wear now, but with different titles. Historical Society members were unaware when the different, smaller commander badges were reinstituted. While they don't know why, they said commanders at the time probably wanted to be distinguished in some way from line personnel.

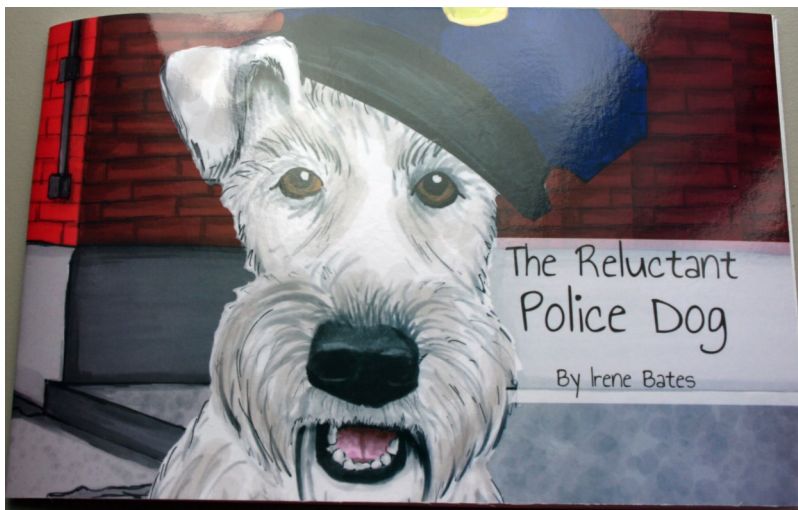
Badge standardization varies across the country. The New York City Police Department has a variety of different badges for different

ranks, while everyone from the Chief to patrol officers wear the exact same badge at the Los Angeles Police Department. While all KCPD badges will now be shaped the same, the colors will differentiate the ranks: silver for officers, gold for sergeants and platinum and gold together for commanders. The colors are just that — colors. The badges are not made of any precious metals.

Detectives continue to be issued the smaller, rounded, silver badges.



## Book aims to connect cops and kids



The widow of a retired KCPD officer has published a book in honor of her late husband to help police build trust with the community, starting with children. The book follows the adventures of a scared stray dog who is found by a kind police officer. The officer takes him along for a ride, which leads to the arrest of a bad guy.

Irene Bates wrote the book based on what really happened when her husband, Officer Curry Bates, found a stray dog on the job. Officer Bates retired from KCPD in 1990 after 28 years of service. He passed away in 2015.

The books are \$8 each, including shipping. To obtain a copy, send cash or a check made payable to Irene Bates to:

P.O. Box 212  
Shell Knob, MO 65747



# Academy revives downtown run

The recruits of the Kansas City Regional Police Academy's 162<sup>nd</sup> Entrant Officer Class revived a tradition to honor those who have gone before them through a run downtown the morning of April 24.

The class's 36 recruits and Academy staff ran west on 12<sup>th</sup> Street from Washington Street, arriving at Police Headquarters at Locust Street at 10 a.m. Staff from inside came out to cheer them.

Then they paid tribute to the 119 KCPD officers who have died in the line of duty by doing push-ups at the memorial statue in front of Headquarters. Chief Richard C. Smith addressed and encouraged the group. Afterward, the recruits ran west to Grand Boulevard and south to Washington Square



Park, for a total of about two miles.

Similar runs used to take place downtown before the construction and opening of the Kansas City Regional Police Academy at 6801 N.E. Pleasant Valley Road. Academy staff worked to revive the tradition this year. They said it serves a time of respect, team-building and motivation for the group, which will graduate May 17. These recruits had just successfully passed their final scenario-based training the week before the run.

Twenty-one of the 36 entrant officers will join

the Kansas City Missouri Police Department upon their graduation. The other 15 in the class will go to police departments in Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, Lee's Summit, North Kansas City, Raymore and Riverside.

## Upcoming Events

May 17  
**Entrant Officer Class  
162 Graduation**

May 24  
**Memorial Service**

May 31  
**2018 Law  
Enforcement Torch  
Run for Special  
Olympics Missouri**

The Informant is a  
publication of KCPD's  
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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

Life-Saving Award  
Officer Christopher  
Lear

Meritorious Service  
Awards

Sergeant Keith  
Ericsson  
Supervisor Eric  
Hershberger  
Fiscal Admin. Anthony  
Rizzo

Certificates of  
Commendation

Sergeant Lee  
Richards  
Sergeant Jonathan  
Rivers  
Officer Joshua Bryant  
Officer Cordell Eby  
Officer Michael  
Feagans

Officer Kegan  
Gemmell  
Officer Jamall Hudson  
Officer Aaron Smith  
Computer Services  
Spec. Amber Smith

Distinguished Service  
Medals

Officer Daniel Bartlett  
Officer Kyle Conkling

### 25-Year Rings

Forensic Specialist  
Dennis Doms  
Mid-range Computer  
Admin. Donna  
Jasper

### Retirements

Sergeant Mark  
Mosbacher

Sergeant Saadia  
Riepe  
Officer Daniel Parker  
Admin. Asst. Mary  
"Cookie" Sparks

### Obituaries

Retired Captain Robert  
Pattinson  
Retired Sergeant Her-  
bert Binsbacher, Jr.  
Retired Officer Edward  
Donahue  
Retired Officer Harold  
Oldham  
Retired Officer Gilbert  
Sanders  
Retired Officer Eugene  
Scovill  
Retired Civilian William  
Palmer  
Retired Civilian William  
Schulte

Please join us for the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department

# Memorial Ceremony

May 24, 2018  
10 a.m.  
1125 Locust Street



To **HONOR** fallen officers in Kansas City who **GAVE** their **LIVES** in service to others.

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Kansas City Missouri Police Department  
1125 Locust  
Kansas City, MO 64106